
 <p>District Personnel</p> <p>Megan Baker, District Technician</p> <p>Beth Eeftink, District Manager</p>	<p>Spring/Summer 2015</p> <p>Bollinger County Soil & Water Conservation District</p> <p>406 E. Main, P.O. Box 199, Marble Hill MO 63764 573-238-2671, Ext. 3</p>	 <p>Shane Bess, District Conservationist</p> <p>Brittany Benfield, NRCS/SWCD Technician</p>
<p>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</p> <p>Saliena Dowd—Chairman; Ronnie Reagan —Vice Chairman; David Retherford, Jr.—Treasurer Mike Kester—Member; Donna Aufdenberg—Secretary</p>		

Cost-Share Projects to Consider this Summer

The Bollinger County Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) recommends summer evaluations for the following cost-share practices:

- **Well Decommissioning** - Incentive for permanently closing water wells no longer in use.
- **Spring Development** - Protecting and enhancing water quality through proper collection and distribution of ground water sources. Spring Developments need to be evaluated during summer months.
- **Use Exclusion** - Fencing existing woodland areas susceptible to excessive erosion due to livestock grazing.
- **Forest Plantation** - Planting of trees or shrubs to reduce erosion. Tree species and quantities will be based on site location and soil type. Minimum of one acre. Mid-March is optimum time for planting. Fall is a good time to start your planning and order the trees needed for the practice.
- **Restoration of Skid Trails, Logging Roads** - Treatment of active gulley erosion on existing skid trails, logging roads, stream crossings and log landings that have been improperly constructed during a timber harvest.
- **Timber Harvest Plans** - Incentive payment for landowners that follow proper design and implementation of management practices on logging roads, stream crossings, log landings and other measures during a timber harvest where landowner is planning a timber sale.
- **Critical Area Treatments** - Assistance for shaping and seeding down critical areas (such as gulleys, banks, roadsides, field borders, and similar problem areas) on farms which are susceptible to erosion.

These practices should be evaluated in the summer due to planning and completion deadlines. Each practice has qualifying factors that determine eligibility for cost-share assistance.

If you would like more information concerning our programs or to schedule a site determination, please call 573/238-2671 ext. 3.

SWCD Board of Supervisors Election for Areas II & IV

The Bollinger County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Supervisors and Nominating Committee is looking for eligible candidates to run for two positions on the Board of Supervisors. The district board consists of five members. Four of the five members are elected. The fifth member is an ex-officio member appointed by the University of Missouri Extension. Each elected member represents one of four areas. The areas up for election are Area II (Whitewater & Scopus Townships) and Area IV (Wayne & Liberty Townships). The election will be held at the USDA Service Center in Marble Hill on June 19, 2015.

The SWCD Board works with cooperators and other agencies to promote all reasonable measures for saving the soil and water within the district. The Board determines how cost-share money is spent within the county to carry out this goal. The Board also supervises the employees of the district. The office of a board member is a four year term. There is no pay for being a board member, but travel to meetings will be reimbursed at the state rate. Monthly Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m.

The qualifying criteria required to be a Board Member include:

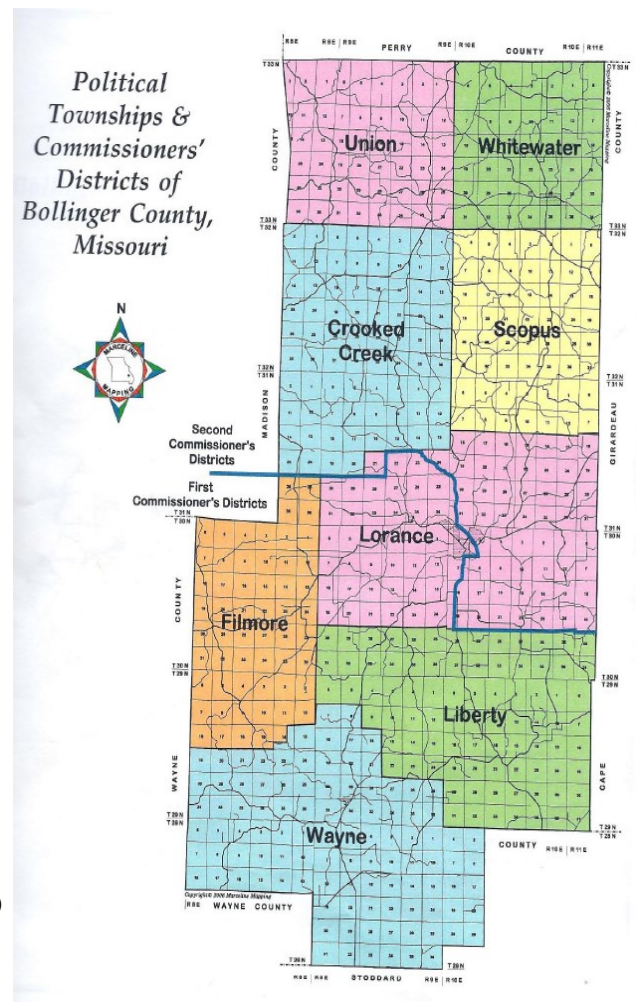
- Being a land representative from the district
- Residing in, or owning a farm in, the territory from which he/she is nominated
- A person who is actively engaged in agricultural activity
- Being a tax paying citizen of the county for at least two years

If you or anyone you know is interested in running for the SWCD Board of Supervisors, please contact the Nominating Committee in your area or the SWCD office.

The Nominating Committee for Area II (Whitewater & Scopus) are Doug Brune, Wayne Johnson and James Isreal.

The Nominating Committee for Area IV (Wayne & Liberty) are Dannie Shell, Jamey Kight and Danny VanGennip.

The deadline to submit candidates names to the SWCD office is May 14, 2015. If you have any questions, please call the SWCD office at 573-238-2671 ext. 3.



The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax

In the 1930s, as the Dust Bowl swept across the nation. Americans realized the devastating effects of soil erosion. Legislation began to take shape to better manage and conserve the nation's soil. Despite these actions, Missouri was still plagued with high erosion rates.

In 1982, Missouri was losing soil at a rate of 10.75 tons per acre* each year on cultivated cropland. A one-tenth-of-one-percent parks, soils and water sales tax was passed by Missouri voters in 1984 to fund state parks and soil and water conservation efforts. Prior to the passage of the sales tax, Missouri had the second highest rate of erosion in the nation. Almost two-thirds of Missouri voters renewed the tax in 1988 and 1996. In 2006, the tax passed by its highest percentage to date (70.8). Missourians will be asked in 2016 to once again consider funding the tax.



Over the past 30 years, soil and water conservation programs have helped Missouri landowners keep more than 175 million tons of soil from eroding into our waterways.

The majority of the soil and water portion of this tax has been used to assist agricultural landowners through voluntary programs that are developed by the Soil and Water Districts Commission. They are administered by the Soil and Water Conservation Program through district boards in each of the 114 counties.

From 1986 to 2014, the Department of Natural Resources has provided \$635 million to Missouri agricultural landowners to implement more than 217,000 conservation practices to protect the state's soil and water resources. In addition, revenues from the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax allowed Missouri to have the highest reduction in its rate of soil erosion when compared to other states with more than 10 million acres of cultivated cropland.

The cost-share program provides financial incentives to landowners for up to 75 percent of the estimated cost for installation of soil and water conservation practices that prevent or control excessive erosion and improve water quality. Soil and water conservation districts provide technical support with the design, implementation and maintenance of practices.

By promoting good farming techniques that help keep soil on the fields and waters clean, each soil and water conservation district is conserving the productivity of Missouri's working lands.

* Source: USDA NRCS 2010 National Resource Inventory



MDC: Squirrel, Black-Bass Seasons Open Memorial Day weekend

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Memorial Day weekend brings an extra-special celebration for squirrel hunters and bass anglers in Missouri. According to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the Saturday of this fourth weekend in May -- May 23 this year -- is when squirrel season opens and when anglers can keep legal-sized bass in most southern Missouri streams.

SQUIRRELS

Hunters can pursue fox and gray squirrels from May 23 through Feb. 15, 2016, with rifles, shotguns, archery equipment, or atlatls. Summer foliage makes rifle shots more difficult than in late fall and winter, when leaves no longer obscure a shooter's view. As a result, shotguns are the preferred method for many hunters during the early part of the season.

Valid permits for squirrel hunting are: Archery Hunting, Daily Small Game, Small Game Hunting and Fishing, and Small Game Hunting.

Hunters with valid permits can also take squirrels with cage-type traps. Traps must be labeled with the hunter's full name and address, or Conservation Number. Squirrel traps must have openings measuring 144 square inches or less, for instance, 12 inches by 12 inches. Hunters must attend their traps daily. The same regulations apply to rabbits and groundhogs during their respective seasons.



The daily limit is 10 with a possession limit of 20. For more information, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/10810.

BASS

The bass catch-and-keep season in most southern Missouri streams applies to largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted/Kentucky bass and runs from May 23 to Feb. 29, 2016. Anglers may catch these species legally all year, anywhere in the state. They may keep legal-sized bass caught from impoundments all year long, statewide. However, from March 1 through the Friday before the fourth Saturday in May, you may only keep black bass caught in streams if you are:

- On the Mississippi River;
- North of the south bank of the Missouri River;
- In that portion of southeast Missouri south and east of Cape Girardeau following Highways 74 and 25, U.S. Highways 60, 67, and 160 and the west bank of the Little Black River to the Arkansas state line; or
- On the St. Francis River downstream from Wappapello Dam.



In the rest of the state, black-bass fishing is catch-and-release only from March 1 through the Friday before the fourth Saturday in May.


In most of the state's waters, the daily limit on black bass is six, with a possession limit of 12. Black bass taken from streams must be at least 12 inches long in most areas. However, many lakes and streams have special length and daily limits. To ensure that you keep only legal bass, you must check for special regulations on the waters you intend to fish. You can find these posted at areas with special regulations, in the 2015 Summary of Missouri Fishing Regulations available where permits are sold, and online at mdc.mo.gov/node/10358.

All anglers must have an appropriate lifetime, annual, or daily fishing permit, or qualify for an exemption. Get more information on fishing permits at mdc.mo.gov/node/5006.

THE COST-SHARE PROCESS

The Bollinger County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) offers a variety of cost-share practices to address many concerns on your farm. Each practice has qualifying factors to determine eligibility for cost-share assistance, and the Bollinger County SWCD operates on a first-come, first-serve process as there are existing waiting lists for some practices. The cost-share process:

- SWCD staff will call you for an appointment to look at your farm to discuss options and determine if your concerns qualify for a cost-share practice.
- Landowner completes direct deposit form and turns it into the SWCD office before the cost-share process can be started.
- SWCD staff creates a plan, or design for the landowner to follow to complete the practice and a contract with the estimated cost-share amount landowner will receive based off of the plan or design. Estimated costs are determined by state average cost from last fiscal year across the entire state.
- The landowner will be given 3 months to complete the practice.
- Landowner completes the practice and pays all bills out-of-pocket.
- Landowner calls the office to let staff know you are finished. Staff will come to property to complete a check out to make sure project meets specifications.
- Staff will call lyou to schedule a time to come in to bring your paid receipts and they will have a payment form for you to sign indicating how much will be directly deposited to your account.
- Staff will turn in your payment form to the state requesting funds to be directly deposited into your account. This process is typically less than two weeks to receive payment.



Make your neighbors green with envy and help protect natural resources with this lawn care tip: Mow cool-season grass such as tall fescue, bluegrass, perennial rye and creeping fescue at no shorter than three inches in height, and warm-season grass such as bermuda and zoysia no shorter than two inches. This helps develop a deep root system that will improve the lawn's drought tolerance. Weeds will be less competitive in taller grass and the grass roots will stay cooler. Proper landscaping and maintenance can reduce water usage, save money and protect your community's natural resources.



Missouri Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.mo.gov

A Few Reminders...

- NRCS accepts EQIP sign-ups all year. Ranking is typically in the Fall. Call the office at (573) 238-2671 ext. 3 for more information or to make an appointment to discuss cost-share programs.
- SWCD & NRCS does random spot checks on completed practices still under maintenance agreements. Maintenance life varies from 5 to 10 years depending on the practice.
- June 19 - SWCD Open House/Board Election. Lunch 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Vote 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- July 15 - Last day to report CRP, corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans and all other crops to FSA.
- June through Sept.—ARC/PLC 2014 & 2015 signups with FSA call (573)238-2671 ext. 2 for more information.

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(Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Equipment Rental

The Bollinger County SWCD & Missouri Department of Conservation have the following equipment available for completing your farming practices:

7' No-till Drill—\$10.00/acre
10' No-till Drill—\$10.00/acre
Pasture Renovator—\$6.00/acre
Root Plow—\$10.00/day
Wildlife Food Plot (1 row) Planter
Burn Spray Trailer